



**STATE OF MONTANA
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
POLICY DIRECTIVE**

Policy No. DOC 5.5.3	Subject: RECREATION PROGRAMS
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Section 5: Recreation Activities	Effective Date: July 1, 1998
Signature: /s/ Mike Ferriter, Director	Revised: 08/06/12

I. POLICY

It is the policy of the Montana Department of Corrections to provide recreational programs and activities to inmates based upon classification, safety and security, and available supervision.

II. APPLICABILITY

Adult secure care facilities Department-owned or contracted, as specified in contract.

III. DEFINITIONS

Recreation - Non-work related activity intended to refresh body or mind.

IV. DEPARTMENT DIRECTIVES

A. General Requirements

1. Recreation activities shall be supervised and made available to each general population inmate at least one (1) hour each day with the exception of segregation inmates.
2. The facility administrator, or designee, shall assign a staff member to supervise recreational activities and complete the following duties:
 - a. annually assess the recreation needs and interests of the inmate population;
 - b. maintain recreation facilities and equipment in condition suitable for planned activities;
 - c. ensure the available recreational equipment is proportional to the participating inmate population;
 - d. inventory, secure, and store the recreational equipment;
 - e. select, train, and supervise inmate gym workers;
 - f. oversee recreation programs in locked housing units for special needs inmates; and
 - g. maintain physical fitness and wellness programs, where applicable.

B. Recreation Program

1. Recreation activities may include softball, basketball, volleyball, table games, sporting competitions, holiday activities, and hobby programs.
2. General population housing units with day rooms may provide activities such as dominoes, checkers, cards, and television.
3. General population inmates shall be granted access to supervised outdoor exercise on a daily basis, weather permitting, using a variety of equipment.

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4. Equipment items issued to inmates in secure facilities shall be inventoried daily and stored in a secure area. Staff is responsible for conducting searches of recreation areas for detecting altered or damaged equipment, hidden contraband, and security breaches.
5. Inmates housed in locked units shall not exercise with general population inmates; special precautions shall be taken to ensure that inmates needing separation from each other do not exercise together.
6. Supervision of recreation activities shall be constant; at least one staff member, equipped with a radio to maintain contact with the control center, shall supervise recreation activities. All inmates moving to recreation activity from locked unit cells shall be searched prior to and after the recreation period and escorted by security personnel.
7. Inmates may be permitted, within the limits imposed by security, safety, and sanitation, to engage in independent recreation activities such as board games, supervised small group activities, in-cell hobby craft, and similar time-structuring activities. Inmates may request additional activities and programs of an individual or group nature with approval contingent on availability of staff supervision, safety and security, and other resources.

C. Program Evaluation

1. Designated staff shall evaluate the program annually to assess effectiveness and determine the personnel and program requirements. This evaluation report shall include an assessment of major accomplishments, problems, plans and goals for the next year.

D. Staffing

1. Administrators shall review the personnel requirements for the recreational program at least annually. This evaluation shall include the following criteria:
 - a. number of staff assigned to the recreation program;
 - b. number of additional assigned staff including, but not limited to, correctional officers assigned to provide security supervision, volunteers, and medical staff; and
 - c. major program revisions that may affect staffing needs.
2. At the discretion of the administrator, trained volunteers from the local community may be utilized in the recreation program while supervised in accordance with [DOC 1.3.16 Volunteer Services](#).

V. CLOSING

Questions concerning this policy should be directed to the facility administrator.

VI. REFERENCES

- A. [53-1-203](#), MCA
- B. [DOC 1.3.16 Volunteer Services](#)
- C. 4-4484, 4-4485; *ACA Standards for Adult Correctional Association, 4th Edition*

VII. ATTACHMENTS

None